India-European Union Summit

258. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of recent India European Union Summit; and

(b) the European Union's views regarding cross border terrorism originating from Pakistan and the need for negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The outcome of the India-EU Summit on 10th-11th October 2002 in Copenhagen was entirely satisfactory from our view point. The Joint Statement and Agenda for Action adopted at the Summit reiterated our shared commitment to expand and deepen India-EU cooperation in all areas on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and to further promote the development of our partnership. It recognizes the importance of India and EU as global actors in a multipolar world.

(b) The EU Declaration on India and Pakistan adopted by the Seville Conference of EU Heads of Government on 21st and 22nd June, 2002 calls on Pakistan to stop infiltration across the Line of Control and to prevent terrorist groups from operating from territory under its control, also through closing of training camps. The EU is also of the view that a lasting settlement of the differences between India and Pakistan could be achieved through bilateral dialogue.

Implementation of Haj Act

259. SHRI K. RAHAMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed the rules for implementation of Haj Act, which has been assented to by the President;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(c) by when the Act and the rules thereunder are likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. The rules for implementation of Haj Act 2002 have been framed and are under legal

scrutiny. It is expected that the Act and the rules thereunder will be notified shortly.

Firing on Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

260. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent firing on fishermen from Wagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy; and

(b) the details of the action taken by Government to save the poor fishermen from the clutches of Sri Lankan Navy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Government of India is aware of incidents of alleged firing involving Sri Lankan Navy on Indian Fishermen from the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) During 2002, two incidents of alleged firing have been reported by the Office of Commissioner and Director of Fisheries, Chennai namely fishermen from Chidambaram District, fishing off Kodiakarai on 22.01.2002 and fishermen of Nagapattinam District again fishing off Kodiakarai on 23.04.2002. Every reported incident with specific details is taken up by the High Commission of India, Colombo with Sri Lankan authorities. Sri Lankan Navy has assured that their forces are under maximum restraint in dealing with Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters.

Government have suggested to the Sri Lankan Government that licensed fishing in their north-eastern waters be permitted for Indian fishermen.

Both sides agree that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of compassion and understanding, in accordance with established legal procedures and in a humane manner.

Extradition of suspected accused of Purulia Case

261. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Denmark in October last, the Prime Minister was told by his Danish counterpart that